

**State of Delaware
Office of Auditor of Accounts**

**Department of Correction
Howard R. Young Correctional
Institution**

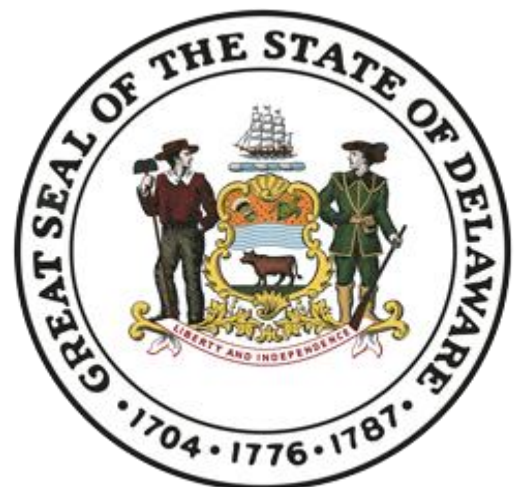
**Unsubstantiated Allegation of Wasteful
Spending for Sally Port Motors**

Special Investigation

Fieldwork End Date: September 29, 2011

Issuance Date: October 4, 2011

R. Thomas Wagner, Jr., CFE, CGFM, CICA
Auditor of Accounts





**State of Delaware
Office of Auditor of Accounts
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At a Glance

Working Hard to Protect YOUR Tax Dollars

Why we did this review

The Office of Auditor of Accounts (AOA) received an allegation that the motors on the HRYCI sally port have been replaced 3-4 times and repaired 40-50 times within the past 12 years due to flooding. The cost to repair the motors is approximately \$10,000 per occasion. The State is wasting money to repair and replace the motors instead of solving the problem by lifting the motors off the ground to avoid damages from flooding. The Warden, Deputy Warden, and Maintenance Supervisor are aware of the issue but State funds continue to be wasted, and the problem remains unresolved.

Background

The Delaware Department of Correction's Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) is a Level 5 facility in the northeast section of Wilmington, Delaware, and houses an average of 1,800 offenders.

For further information on this release, please contact:

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Howard R. Young Correctional Institution Unsubstantiated Allegation of Wasteful Spending for Sally Port Motors

Through interviews with Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) officials and inspection of expenditure documents, AOA learned that the sally port motors were replaced in February 2011 due to flood damage that happened in October 2010. The total cost of the replacement was \$27,324. We could not identify additional expenditures from Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, or 2011.

Within the next two years, DOC will build a new kitchen on the east side of the HRYCI facility, which will require the east sally port to be moved further east. At this time, the roadway will be raised 9 feet in order for the gates and motors to be above the flood plain. DOC is also researching mounting the motors on the top of the fence to further mitigate potential flood damage.

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Background

The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) supervises approximately 7,000 inmates in its four adult correctional facilities as well as approximately 17,000 probationers in the community.

The Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) is a Level 5 (jail or prison¹) facility in the northeast section of Wilmington, Delaware, and houses an average of 1,800 offenders.

A sally port is a secure, controlled entry way at a fortification or a prison. It is used to control the movement of persons, materials, and vehicles passing into and from a secured area. HRYCI has two sally port entry ways. The first, on the east side of the facility, is used for deliveries and the second, on the west side is used to transport prisoners to and from the institution. The sally port in question is on the east side of the facility and is next to a drainage ditch that flows to the Brandywine Creek. The sally port is built within the flood plain of the Brandywine Creek.



The sally port on the east side of HRYCI. The sally port motor is inside the green box.

¹ Jail describes those offenders serving one year or less. Prison describes those offenders serving more than one year. Both sets of individuals serve their time in the same correctional facilities.

Allegation and Conclusion

Allegation

The Office of Auditor of Accounts (AOA) received an allegation that the motors on the HRYCI sally port have been replaced 3-4 times and repaired 40-50 times within the past 12 years due to flooding. The cost to repair the motors is approximately \$10,000 per occasion. The State is wasting money to repair and replace the motors instead of solving the problem by lifting the motors off the ground to avoid damages from flooding. The Warden, Deputy Warden, and Maintenance Supervisor are aware of the issue but State funds continue to be wasted, and the problem remains unresolved.

Conclusion

Unsubstantiated.

Through interviews with DOC officials and inspection of expenditure documents, AOA learned that the sally port motors were replaced in February 2011 due to flood damage that happened in October 2010. The total cost of the replacement was \$27,324. DOC representatives did not report any other repair or replacement expenditures. AOA searched Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, and 2011 expenditure transactions for the three vendors that submitted proposals for the 2011 replacement. We also attempted to review maintenance logs for the sally port motor but HRYCI could not provide any. We did not identify any other expenditures in our search.

Within the next two years, DOC will build a new kitchen on the east side of the HRYCI facility, which will require the east sally port to be moved further east. At this time, the roadway will be raised 9 feet in order for the gates and motors to be above the flood plain. DOC is also researching mounting the motors on the top of the fence to further mitigate potential flood damage. A request for proposal has been issued for a construction manager and the final construction plans are still in process.

During the course of our review, we were advised by the Bureau Chief of Management Services that Hurricane Irene resulted in another flooding event in August 2011. DOC is currently deciding whether to repair the gate operators that were damaged and leave the placement of the operators as they are or to place the gate operators at the top of the fence now instead of during the renovation.

The conclusion of the allegation is defined as follows:

Substantiated:	The allegation has been verified by competent evidence.
Partially Substantiated:	A portion of the allegation has been verified by competent evidence; however, competent evidence to verify the entire allegation could not be provided by the agency or obtained by AOA.
Unsubstantiated:	Competent evidence was found to dispute the allegation.
Unable to Conclude:	Competent evidence to verify the allegation could not be provided by the agency or obtained by AOA.

Distribution of Report

Copies of this report have been distributed to the following public officials:

The Honorable Jack A. Markell, Governor, State of Delaware
The Honorable Russell T. Larson, Controller General, Office of the Controller General
The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, III, Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
The Honorable Thomas J. Cook, Secretary, Department of Finance
The Honorable Ann S. Visalli, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Mr. Kristopher Knight, Director, Division of Accounting, Department of Finance

Officials of Investigative Entity

Mr. Carl Danberg, Commissioner, Department of Correction
Mr. Michael DeLoy, Chief, Bureau of Prisons, Department of Correction
Ms. Kimberly Wheatley, Bureau Chief of Management Services, Department of Correction
Mr. Philip Morgan, Warden, Howard R. Young Correctional Institution, Department of Correction

This report can be accessed online through the AOA website at <http://auditor.delaware.gov>.